



SERVING

Bay Ho

Bay Park

Birdland

De Anza

Clairemont

Kearny Mesa

Linda Vista

Mission Valley

Mission Bay Park

Mission Village

Morena

Serra Mesa

Stonecrest

Villa Morena

Message from the Councilmember:

Growing Up in Clairemont

My family and I moved to San Diego in the late '50s. Our first home was in Clairemont off of Clairemont Drive and it overlooked Mission Bay and the canyon. The milkman delivered fresh dairy products to the house in the morning, and in the afternoons, we'd run to find change to buy some goodies from the bakery man or popsicle truck.

The canyon below our house was home only to the critters. There were alligator lizards, blue bellies, tiger lizards and sand lizards, but my favorites were the hornytoads (they ate the ants and were mellow) and the skinks' (they had vibrant colors and smooth shiny skin).

My brother and I would spend the days playing in the canyon, and catching lizards to bring home to release in the backyard. Every so often, we would sneak one of the lizards into the house and of course, it would get away. More than once, Mom found it when we were at school and it would scare the wits out of her. There were snakes too, and we were always on the lookout for one to bring home to show Mom and Dad.

Our house had a big picture window that overlooked Mission Bay and during the day, we could see the barge dredging the bay. At night, we would watch the lights come on from all around the city, but I especially liked the lights from Belmont Park.

The summers in Clairemont were the best. We could stay out and play with our friends until almost dark. We would ride our bikes, play kickball in the cul-de-sac or just sit around in the front yard talking and laughing.

In 1962, we moved to another part of Clairemont off of Balboa Avenue. There were lots of canyons and open space, although there were more houses and some office buildings on the mesa. It was pretty good lizard hunting too.

I was in the Girl Scouts and once a week we assembled in the front of the school to raise and lower the flag. We learned how to fold it properly and make sure it did not touch the ground. We also had a girls' teamball team, and after school, we would go to other local elementary schools to compete. One year we were the teamball champions.

I also attended dance class after school that was provided by the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department. I took tap dancing, and the highlight of the class was a nighttime dance recital for our parents and our friends. My dance routine included jumping rope and tapping at the same time. Although it was good preparation for my current job, I am thankful that video cameras were not yet invented.

Today, as I sit and write this, I am grateful for

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Donna on Clairemont Drive, overlooking Mission Bay in 1985.

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